

Using Prepositions and Particles

Workbook Two

J. B. Heaton

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Exercise 1

Prepositional phrases

One of the prepositions given in brackets completes each phrase. Write the correct preposition against each number.

Example: What are all those workmen doing on the bridge? Is it now (beyond, under) repair?

under

1. Mr White returned home (at, for) once as soon as he heard of his son's illness. 1. _____
2. We hope to travel to England (by, at) sea. 2. _____
3. He is attending the meeting (on, in) principle because he believes that it is everyone's duty to attend. 3. _____
4. The school has several physics text-books (in, on) order from this shop. 4. _____
5. I know that lady (on, by) sight. 5. _____
6. This book is so popular that it is (in, on) demand in every book-shop. 6. _____
7. 'Who is (in, on) authority here?' the colonel asked Sergeant Hicks. 7. _____
8. Tom muttered something (out of, under) his breath, but his father did not hear. 8. _____
9. The manager and the director have both gone to Japan (on, in) business. 9. _____
10. Many people remarked that Ann was looking very much (off, without) colour and ought to stay in bed. 10. _____
11. Is this car (for, on) sale? 11. _____
12. The captain's loyalty was (beside, beyond) question: he would never betray us. 12. _____
13. Although Henry said in his letter that he was very happy, I could read (through, between) the lines he wanted to return home. 13. _____
14. Try to pronounce the sound in this way little (by, after) little you will learn to say it. 14. _____
15. May I bring my sister to the party?—By (all, any) means. 15. _____
16. There was no delay (on, for) my part. I wrote a reply to his letter two weeks ago. 16. _____

Exercise 2

Verbs, nouns and adjectives followed by prepositions

Join each column on the left with the most appropriate conclusion on the right (using each once only) so as to make sentences. Write the number of the appropriate left-hand column in each space on the right. (The first one is done for you.)

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1. We are all sitting | for the trip from Hong Kong to Australia. | _____ |
| 2. Mary saved £100 | for his part in the rescue. | _____ |
| 3. Sykes was eventually pardoned | for the prettiest girl in the school. | _____ |
| 4. I mistook you | for the School Certificate Examination | _____ |
| 5. John has fallen | for a voice like yours. | _____ |
| 6. Tom was rewarded | for the trivial offence. | _____ |
| 7. He implored the king | for Harry's brother. | _____ |
| 8. I have always longed | for mercy. | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 9. Where can I dispose | of the theft? | _____ |
| 10. How can anyone be cured | of his guilt? | _____ |
| 11. Did the highwayman rob Lady Jane | of the danger ahead? | _____ |
| 12. What caused his distrust | of these old rags? | _____ |
| 13. Was Wright convicted | of this exercise? | _____ |
| 14. What is the object | of all her jewels? | _____ |
| 15. Why did you forget to warn me | of such a bad habit? | _____ |
| 16. Did the lawyer convince you | of the new servant? | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 17. Anna delighted | in physics while at the university. | _____ |
| 18. I disguised myself | in the argument. | _____ |
| 19. The young scientist distinguished himself | in clothes. | _____ |
| 20. Please don't implicate me | in dancing with her boy-friend. | _____ |
| 21. Mrs Brown did not intervene | in adding up the bill. | _____ |
| 22. Tony persisted | in the old farmer's clothes. | _____ |
| 23. They have made a mistake | in this doubtful affair. | _____ |
| 24. She has very good taste | in wanting to become a writer. | _____ |

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 25. Don't be too hard | on the subject. | _____ |
| 26. This house is founded | on world health. | _____ |
| 27. Please don't spend a lot of money | on his old friend. | _____ |
| 28. Congratulations | on the ruins of the old temple. | _____ |
| 29. Professor Brain is speaking | on your son. | _____ |
| 30. Your question has little bearing | on a present for me. | _____ |
| 31. Fred was angry and turned | on his foresight and judgement. | _____ |
| 32. He prided himself | on your marriage. | _____ |
| <hr/> | | |
| 33. John pondered | over calling in the police. | _____ |
| 34. We had a good laugh | over the prisoner throughout the night. | _____ |
| 35. She hesitated | over yours. | _____ |
| 36. Mrs Tell soon got | over all the people. | _____ |
| 37. The guards watched | over the reason for the quarrel. | _____ |
| 38. The king has great power | over her illness. | _____ |
| 39. Their request takes priority | over her brother's failure. | _____ |
| 40. Peggy was very upset | over the funny mistake. | _____ |

Exercise 3

Verbs followed by prepositions (Verb + object + preposition + object of preposition.)

Fill in each space with the correct preposition.

1. obtain information _____ a book
2. protect a person _____ attack
3. compare one person _____ another
4. prevent someone _____ doing something
5. separate one thing _____ another
6. accuse a person _____ a crime
7. rescue a child _____ drowning
8. greet a person _____ a smile
9. hide something _____ a person
10. compliment a person _____ his success
11. trust a friend _____ a secret
- 3 12. owe a person _____ something

Exercise 4

Phrases including *to*

Insert a suitable word from the following list before *to* in each of the sentences.

according	as	due
next	owing	prior

1. He worked as a watchman _____ *to* his dismissal.
2. _____ *to* his inefficiency, the clerk was given one month's notice to leave.
3. _____ *to* the manager, the clerk had been lazy and inefficient.
4. If you try to solve the problem _____ *to* the method shown in the book, you will arrive at the wrong answer.
5. _____ *to* God, he loved his country with all his heart.
6. The school is _____ *to* the city hall.
7. He was a schoolmaster _____ *to* taking his present post.
8. His failure was _____ *to* his poor health.
9. I have no doubt _____ *to* your good intentions.
10. He left Australia two weeks ago, _____ *to* Mr Williams.

Exercise 5

For, since

Express the following ideas in single sentences, using either *for* or *since*.

Examples: (i) I'm reading 'Oliver Twist'. The length of time I've been reading this book is two hours.

I've been reading 'Oliver Twist' *for* two hours.

(ii) I started reading 'Oliver Twist' at two o'clock. I'm still reading this book.
I've been reading 'Oliver Twist' *since* two o'clock.

1. Ann was waiting for Tom at six o'clock. She is still waiting for him.

1. _____

2. The length of time we swam is half an hour. We are still swimming.

2. _____

3. Mrs Lee began to cry on John's departure. She is still crying.

3. _____

4. Alfred met you last week. From that time has he met you?

4. _____

5. Henry was working very hard last September. He has worked very hard from that time.

5. _____

6. He hasn't smoked any cigarettes this year. It is already the end of July and he still isn't smoking.

6. _____

7. Two hours is how long I've spent listening to Mr White. I'm still listening to him.

7. _____

8. We started playing tennis early this morning and we're still playing.

8. _____

9. It was dawn. I started walking then and I'm still walking.

9. _____

10. Miss Smith began working as the manager's secretary. Eight years have passed and she is still doing the same job.

10. _____

Exercise 6

Word order: verbs followed by prepositions and phrasal verbs

Rewrite the following sentences, changing each noun object to a pronoun and making any changes in word order where necessary. (Remember that pronouns follow prepositions but generally precede adverbial particles.)

Examples: (i) I came upon *an old diary* in the library.

I came upon *it* in the library. (*upon*: preposition)

(ii) Look up *this word* in the dictionary.

Look *it* up in the dictionary. (*up*: adverbial particle)

1. We all must answer for our actions.

1. _____

2. It was hard for Mr Black to live down the scandal.

2. _____

3. Hand over your gun, please.

3. _____

4. He is unable to make out the signature.

4. _____

5. Can you figure out a solution?

5. _____

6. 'We shall now go into the present unemployment problem,' the minister said.

6. _____

7. Keep off the grass.

7. _____

8. 'Keep off your dog!' the frightened beggar shouted.

8. _____

9. The landlady refused to put up the students.

9. _____

10. He gave away the vital secret.

10. _____

11. Ann had on her best frock.

11. _____

12. We happened on several strangers during our visit.

12. _____

13. I hope you will never come under the influence of such books.

13. _____

14. I wish you would be so kind as to bear with Mr Dickinson a little longer.

14. _____

15. Everything bears out his previous statement.

15. _____

16. He decided at once to throw up his job.

16. _____

17. Mr Lord was very much taken with the new car.

17. _____

18. He is up against great competition.

18. _____

19. She is given to periodical outbursts.

19. _____

20. The third robber made off with all the money.

20. _____

Exercise 7

Adverbial particles

Many adverbial particles function in the same way as ordinary adverbs and help to form a collocation in which the verb keeps its usual meaning. Supply a suitable particle in each sentence below.

Example: A few small boys were running *about* when I entered the village.

1. 'Please blow _____ the candle and come to bed, John,' Andrew called.
2. Ask Mary _____ and I'll make some tea for us all.
3. My parents promised to let me stay _____ late to watch the boxing-match on television.
4. The headmaster took out his long stick and told Alan to bend _____.
5. Turn _____ the gas: the water is boiling _____.
6. The small wheels of the car turned _____ very quickly.
7. The stream has dried _____ and there is no water anywhere.
8. Let me help you to hang all those pictures _____.
9. She stood at the window and gazed _____, but could see no one.
10. The scouts have decided to camp _____ in the forest.
11. Mrs White has promised to sew this button _____ for me.
12. The cat leapt on the table and tipped _____ the lovely vase.
13. Sit _____ and have a cup of tea.
14. 'Have you seen the film _____?' 'No, but I had already seen one like it, so I came away before the end.'
15. Frank was such a good runner that he soon left all the others _____.
16. Although the three sisters tried _____ all the shoes, none would fit them.
17. I arrived home only to find myself locked _____.
18. Turn _____ the radio, please: I want to hear the news.
19. The man talked _____ and _____: he never realised that no one was listening to him.
20. I hope that I haven't frightened _____ the shy little boy.
- 7 21. Mr Lightbody helped the children to blow _____ the balloons for the party.

22. Shirley at last plucked _____ the courage to tell her parents the whole story.
23. Tim's father was the manager of the factory and showed the boys _____ ; they learnt a lot from him and greatly enjoyed their visit.
24. 'Don't decide now whether to buy the radio or not,' said the smart salesman. 'Talk it _____ with your friends first.'
25. Realising that he was caught, the spy ran to the window and jumped _____.
26. The technicians have repaired the fault and the electricity is now _____ again.
27. There was a knock on the door and the next moment a wounded cowboy had staggered _____.
28. Go to bed and sleep _____ your cares. You'll feel much better in the morning.
29. George and Dorothy walked on the deck for a few minutes and then went _____ to their cabin two decks below.
30. 'Jack, you must try harder: you've fallen _____ this term,' Mr Atkinson said.
31. 'Stand _____!' shouted the policeman. 'Let the President pass.'
32. Paul turned _____ from the horrible sight in disgust.
33. The teacher told us to copy _____ page 56 in our text-book.
34. Several boys were not interested in the subject and used to idle _____ their time.
35. 'You cannot afford to let this opportunity slip _____,' said the Professor.
36. 'I'll wash _____ the car for a dollar,' the little boy said, as he filled a bucket of water.

Exercise 8

Off, out, up

These three particles are sometimes used with verbs to express a general sense of completion, result, or emphasis. Fill in each space in the sentences below with *off*, *out*, or *up*.

1. Has your toothache passed _____ yet?
2. We spent an hour trying to puzzle _____ the answer to this problem.
3. No one put any more coal on the fire and it gradually died _____.
4. Shake the medicine _____ before you pour it _____.
5. 'I shall have a big car when I grow _____,' Tommy told his mother.
6. The shipwrecked sailors hollowed the trunk _____ and made a boat.
7. We have to finish _____ our essays for homework tonight.
8. The old man gathered _____ the sticks and sold them for firewood.

9. She used _____ all her energy on cleaning the house.
10. Add these figures _____ and tell me the answer.
11. John was tired _____ after the strenuous game and dozed _____ as soon as he sat down in the comfortable chair.
12. 'Whose name have I left _____?' Mrs White asked after she had read _____ the list.
13. I did not wake _____ until nine o'clock this evening.
14. 'I'm afraid we've sold _____ but I shall order some more if you wish,' said the shopkeeper.
15. Drain _____ the fat before you serve this dish.
16. Peter carefully folded _____ the letter and put it in his pocket.
17. 'Rinse the clothes _____ thoroughly before you hang them on the line,' Mrs Brown told John.
18. Will you help me to tie this parcel _____?
19. This year the disease killed _____ more cattle than it did last year.
20. The money you have paid me already cancels _____ the debt.
21. 'Fasten _____ your coat,' Bill's mother said.
22. He forgot to wind his watch _____ and so he was late for work.

Exercise 9

Get

When combined with prepositions or particles, the verb *get* takes on a wide variety of meanings. While collocations containing *get* are highly suitable in colloquial English, it is often advisable to use a more formal word or phrase in written English. The passage below would be complete with the expressions shown in brackets, but the verb *get* occurs too frequently. Strike out the brackets and the words in them, substituting in each space a word or phrase with the same meaning as the words struck out.

Example: How is Tom _____ (getting on)?
How is Tom *managing*?

Inspector Brown ran up to us and told us that three dangerous criminals had _____
(got away) from the nearby prison on the moor. He quickly advised us all to _____
(get back) home as quickly as possible.

'What are you _____ (getting at)?' we asked him with some concern, once we had
_____ (got over) the first shock.

'The three men tried to _____ (get at) one of the guards by offering him a hundred pounds. When the guard refused to take the money, they shot him,' the inspector sighed. 'I haven't had time yet to _____ (get down to) studying the route of their escape, but I
9 believe that they are coming in this direction.'

Bill and I _____ (got on) our horses at once and rode over the moor to warn Ann. When we _____ (got to) the big house where she lived, the news of the escape had already _____ (got round to) the neighbouring farms.

Ann's grandfather, who was _____ (getting on for) eighty, opened the door of the big house. I always _____ (got on with) the old man and he showed me straight into the living-room. Ann smiled and _____ (got up) when she saw Bill and me.

'Oh, the events of this evening are _____ (getting me down),' she said quietly.

'You can't possibly spend the night here,' I told her. 'It will be much too dangerous.'

'I'm certainly not _____ (getting out),' said Ann with great determination. 'I have too many valuable things to leave behind,' she continued.

At first Bill thought that she was just _____ (getting at) us and he laughed. Then he noticed the serious expression on Ann's face and he was quiet.

'My grandfather is old and refuses to leave the house. I must stay here with him,' Ann blurted out. 'Don't worry about us: we'll _____ (get by).'

'You can't _____ (get round) the issue by saying that,' I argued. 'It simply isn't safe to stay here. The criminals will certainly try to _____ (get into) somebody's house, for they must have already _____ (got through) the food they _____ (got away with) from the shop near the prison. Your house is the loneliest and the one most likely to attract them.'

Suddenly I heard the sound of footsteps behind me and I knew that the old man had heard everything. Bill saw the old man too, for he at once tried to change the subject to _____ (get over) our embarrassment.

'What time does the train from Woodville _____ (get into) Plymtown?' he asked. 'I've _____ (got up) a small concert to raise funds for the church and I must be _____ (getting along).'

Exercise 10

In spite of

In spite of Smith's absence, the football team did not wish to put off the game.

Read the above statement carefully and then write the number of the sentence below which gives the correct meaning of the statement.

1. The team did not wish to play the game, because Smith was absent.
2. The team wished to play the game, although Smith was absent.
3. The team wished to postpone the game, because Smith was absent.
4. The team did not wish to play the game, in order to make Smith angry.
5. The team wished to postpone the game until Smith was present.

Correct sentence = _____

Exercise 11

In/on/by/at/with/for/under/to + noun + preposition

Supply the correct preposition following the noun in each prepositional phrase in italics in the sentences below. The preposition which introduces the phrase (i.e. preceding the noun) is given before each group of sentences.

in

1. The boy scout was awarded a medal *in recognition* _____ his brave act in rescuing a small boy.
2. The two brothers set off *in quest* _____ gold.
3. Margaret refused to act *in obedience* _____ the headmistress's rules.
4. Lord Highbrow's behaviour is hardly *in keeping* _____ his high position in society.
5. The chairman gave reasons for his decision *in anticipation* _____ the complaints that he knew would follow.
6. Charles White practises the piano an hour each day *in addition* _____ doing all his homework.
7. Many unnecessary sacrifices are often made *in the name* _____ freedom.
8. The bazaar was held *in aid* _____ the poor children in the colony.
9. Professor Samson received a high salary *in return* _____ his work under unpleasant conditions.
10. The civic hall was built *in remembrance* _____ those men who were killed during the war.
11. She appeared to be *in need* _____ a holiday.
12. The country strengthened its army *in readiness* _____ attack.

on

13. This essay is *on a par* _____ the other one, which gained full marks in the test.
14. Mr and Mrs Mint ordered a bottle of wine *on the occasion* _____ their wedding anniversary.
15. The house was *on the verge* _____ collapse when it was pulled down.
16. The students are *on good terms* _____ their lecturers.
- 11 17. The teacher proposed a vote of thanks to the Education Board *on behalf* _____ his colleagues.

18. The tourists went into the forest *on the chance* _____ seeing the rare animal.
19. The school has been built *on a level* _____ the hospital behind it.
20. The wretched man would not go alone to the native village *on account* _____ his great unpopularity.

by

21. He succeeded *by dint* _____ endless practice.
22. The girl goes *by the name* _____ Mary Bird.
23. The boat sailed to Australia *by way* _____ the Cape of Good Hope.
24. The pirates found the treasure *by means* _____ the old map.

at

25. He was prepared to accept the bet even *at the expense* _____ losing his reputation.
26. China is no longer *at war* _____ Japan.
27. The clown ran *at the head* _____ the long line of circus performers.
28. Mr Knight is *at work* _____ a large oil-painting showing the horrors of war.
29. The villain was arrested *at the end* _____ the novel.
30. John Lee is *at home* _____ early French literature as well as medieval Italian poetry.

with

31. *With reference* _____ your recent complaint, I am pleased to inform you that the matter has now been attended to. (*From a business letter*)
32. He accepted the post *with a view* _____ being able to travel widely.
33. Peter started taking the correspondence course *with the intention* _____ getting a better job.
34. You are requested to attend for an interview *with regard* _____ your application for a post as a clerk. (*From a business letter*)

for

35. The babies were very weak *for lack* _____ suitable vitamins.
36. The stranger was silent *for the remainder* _____ the journey.

under

37. Inspector Manson visited the sick criminal *under the guise* _____ a distinguished surgeon.
38. The regiment is now *under the command* _____ Colonel Peabody.

to

39. The wealthy Mr Ashton bought the big house *to the tune* _____ several hundred thousand dollars.

40. The work was eventually completed *to the satisfaction* _____ the architect.

Exercise 12

For

Use another preposition or a prepositional phrase from the list below instead of *for* in each of the following sentences. (Make any necessary changes to the structure of each sentence.)

to	regarding	in favour of
on account of	on behalf of	in return for
in search of	in exchange for	
during	in order to obtain	

1. Their youngest son went abroad *for* adventure.

1. _____

2. He was prepared to do the task *for* a very small fee.

2. _____

3. The ship is due to sail *for* South America tomorrow.

3. _____

4. I have never left this island *for* the last seven years.

4. _____

5. I managed to get five hundred dollars *for* my bicycle.

5. _____

6. Some people say that Susan married the old man *for* his money.

6. _____

7. Did you vote *for* the motion?

7. _____

8. I have decided to take a holiday in the hills *for* my health.

8. _____

9. Mr Brown's assistant acted *for* Mr Brown during the latter's absence.

9. _____

10. *As for* Mrs Watson, she never really intended leaving her sick husband.

10. _____

Exercise 13

Prepositional phrases

The phrase in italics in each sentence has one of the three meanings shown below. ~~Underline the~~ correct meaning of each phrase.

1. Mrs Hill decided that it was time to have a long *heart-to-heart* talk with her daughter.
A. emotional B. frank C. secret
2. I was completely *at sea* when I first started my new job in the factory.
A. on a ship B. forgetful C. confused
3. John's pleasant manner soon helped to *put him in our good books*.
A. in our favour B. in our debt C. in our service
4. You spoke to me a long time ago about the tall stranger: the man *in question* is a detective.
A. referred to B. under suspicion C. not known
5. Whether or not you agree to the plan is *beside the point*: all we want from you is information.
A. very important B. irrelevant C. being discussed
6. After the incident, the crowd got *out of hand* and there was almost a riot.
A. out of control B. out of reach C. angry
7. I knew that Jack was *on edge* as he sat waiting to take his driving test.
A. in poor health B. depressed C. nervous
8. How *on earth* can you work without a break for eight hours?
A. ever B. almost C. always
9. Mr White often meets your principal and is also *on good terms* with your teacher.
A. on holiday B. friendly C. agreeable
10. Everyone was *in high spirits* when we went on the picnic.
A. drunk B. energetic C. gay
11. Paul is hard-working, intelligent, and very popular with the other students. He is also reliable and has the quality of leadership. *In short*, he is just the type of boy we want to be a prefect.
A. Briefly B. At once C. Therefore
12. *As a rule* I work until six o'clock every day and then have tea at a nearby café.
A. Officially B. Usually C. In fact
13. I can recommend *without reserve* the small hotel where we stayed last summer.
A. fully B. in public C. willingly
14. Dick was a few hundred dollars *in pocket* after selling his bicycle.
A. richer B. poorer C. in cash
15. I tried *in vain* to start the engine of the boat.
A. proudly B. with great strength C. without result

Exercise 14

Verbs, nouns and adjectives followed by FOR

Fill in each space with the correct word from the list below.

pray	available	blame	plan
cure	candidate	recommend	necessary
sufficient	reach	difficult	demand

1. There was only one _____ for the post.
2. Do you know a good _____ for stomach-ache?
3. Can you _____ a good man for this job?
4. When will you be _____ for an interview?
5. The monks will _____ for rain.
6. The young couple have already begun to _____ for their next holiday.
7. I saw the gangster _____ for his gun.
8. The shop has stopped selling shoes of this kind since there is little _____ for them.
9. The driver is not to _____ for the accident. I saw the little boy run across the road.
10. The food is _____ for at least fifty people.
11. It has been _____ for me to drive since I hurt my hand.
12. Is it really _____ for me to remain here?

Exercise 15

Nouns and adjectives followed by TO

Fill in each space with the correct word from the list below.

marriage	loyal	blind	convenient	reference
new	available	danger	grateful	credit

1. The unexploded bomb is a _____ to all those who live in the district.
2. We shall meet at seven o'clock if this time is _____ to you.
3. Throughout his life the great doctor remained _____ to his principles.
4. I shall be very _____ to you if you can help me.
- 15 5. 'Are you _____ to the job?' someone asked the stranger.